

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

a screen means for placement within a wound bed;  
a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;  
a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means; and  
a sensing device interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source;  
wherein the sensing device senses unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said sensing device is comprised of a gas chromatograph.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 2 wherein said gas chromatograph is comprised of a photo diode in optical proximity to fluids being drawn from the wound site towards said vacuum source.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said sensing device is comprised of a sensor sensor array.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 further comprising a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said sensing device.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
- a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
- a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means;
- a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source; and
- a sensing device for detecting infection;

wherein the sensing device senses unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said sensing device is embedded within said screen means.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said sensing device is disposed on said sealing means, such that said sensing device is in contact with said screen means.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said sensing device is disposed within said canister

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Claim 10 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 further comprising a flexible conduit for communicating between said screen means and said vacuum source.